IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended)   In a video on demand system for
supplying video data to a plurality of subscriber receivers via a
program delivery network, the improvement comprising:

a.   A data base storage system containing a plurality of
video on demand programs;

b.   A temporary video storage memory;

c.   A transaction server ~~responsively~~ <u>directly</u> coupled to
said data base storage system, said temporary video storage
memory, and said plurality of subscriber receivers whereby each
of said plurality of subscriber receivers requests a different
video on demand program from said transaction server and said
transaction server spools said different video on demand programs
from said data base storage to said temporary video storage
memory; and

d.   A plurality of video servers ~~responsively~~ <u>directly</u>
coupled to said transaction server <u>and said temporary video
storage memory</u> and <u>responsively coupled to</u> said plurality of
subscriber receivers via said program delivery network wherein
said plurality of video servers are assigned by said transaction
server to stream said spooled different video on demand programs
from said temporary video storage memory to said plurality of

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subscriber receivers via said program delivery network.

2.   (Currently Amended)   The video on demand system of claim 1 wherein said transaction server further comprises a transaction gateway <u>software module</u> operating in a middleware environment and a video server frame and stream spooling program responsively coupled to said transaction gateway via said middleware environment <u>and wherein each of said plurality of video servers further comprises an industry compatible personal computer</u>.

3.   (Previously Presented) The video on demand system of claim 2 further comprising a mainframe computer platform hosting said transaction server responsively coupled to said one of said plurality of video servers and said subscriber receiver.

4.   (Original)   The video on demand system of claim 3 wherein said mainframe computer platform further comprises a Unisys mainframe computer system.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The video on demand system of claim 4 wherein said transaction server spools said video on demand program in the MPEG-2 format.

6.   (Currently Amended)   An apparatus comprising:

a. A plurality of subscribing receivers each capable of providing a plurality of service requests;

b. A data base storage system which stores a plurality of video programs;

c. A temporary digital memory storage device;

d. A transaction server ~~responsively~~ directly coupled to said plurality of subscribing receivers, said temporary digital memory storage device, and said data base storage system capable of receiving said plurality of service requests, accessing said plurality of video programs corresponding to said plurality of service requests from said data base storage system, and spooling said plurality of video programs into said temporary digital memory device in response thereto; and

e. A plurality of video servers ~~responsively~~ directly coupled to said transaction server, said temporary digital memory storage device, and said plurality of subscribing receivers wherein said transaction server assigns one of said plurality of video servers to stream said spooled plurality of video programs from said temporary digital memory device to said plurality of subscribing receivers.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said transaction server further comprises a subscriber account whereby each of said plurality of subscribing receivers

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is charged for corresponding ones of said plurality of service requests.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said transaction server further comprises a transaction gateway operating in a commercial middleware environment.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said plurality of spooled video programs further comprises MPEG-2.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said transaction server further comprises a Unisys computer system.

11. (Currently Amended) A video on demand system comprising:

    a. Storing means for storing a plurality of video programs;

    b. Plurality of generating means for generating a plurality of different requested video on demand signals;

    c. Identifying means ~~responsively~~ <u>directly</u> coupled to said generating means and said storing means for identifying a number of said plurality of video programs stored within said storing means corresponding to said plurality of different requested video on demand signals;

    d. <u>temporarily storing means for temporarily storing said</u>

plurality of different requested video on demand signals;

e. Spooling means ~~responsively~~ directly coupled to said identifying means, said temporarily storing means, and said storing means for spooling said corresponding number of said plurality of video programs from said storing means into said temporarily storing means which said identifying means identifies; and

[[e.]] f. A plurality of streaming means ~~responsively~~ directly coupled to said spooling means, said temporarily storing means, and said receiving means for streaming said spooled number of said plurality of video programs corresponding to said plurality of different requested video on demand signals from said temporarily storing means to said plurality of generating means wherein said spooling means assigns one or said plurality of streaming means to stream said spooled number of said plurality of video programs to said plurality of generating means.

12. (Previously Presented) A video on demand system according to claim 11 wherein said plurality of generating means further comprises a subscriber box.

13. (Previously Presented) A video on demand system according to claim 12 wherein said identifying means further comprises a

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transaction gateway.

14.   (Previously Presented)   A video on demand system according to claim 13 wherein said identifying means further comprises processing means for processing subscriber transactions.

15.   (Previously Presented)   A video on demand system according to claim 14 wherein said identifying means further comprises a Unisys mainframe computer system.

16.   (Currently Amended)   A method of providing video on demand services comprising:

    a.   Storing a plurality of video programs in a video storage facility;

    b.   Receiving a video on demand request from a subscriber at a transaction server;

    c.   Determining a one of said plurality of video programs corresponding to said video on demand request by said transaction server;

    d.   Spooling said one of said plurality of video programs corresponding to said video on demand request from said video storage facility into a temporary storage facility by said transaction server;

    e.   Assigning one of a plurality of video servers

responsively coupled to subscriber to stream said one of said plurality of video programs corresponding to said video on demand request to said subscriber <u>by said transaction server</u>; and

f.   Streaming said spooled video program from said temporary storage facility by said assigned video server to said subscriber.

17.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 16 further comprising:

a.   Pausing said streaming in response to a pause signal from said subscriber to said transaction server.

18.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 16 further comprising:

a.   Reversing said streaming in response to a reverse signal from said subscriber to said transaction server.

19.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 16 further comprising:

a.   Fast forwarding said streaming in response to a fast forward from said subscriber to said transaction server.

20.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 16 wherein said processing step further comprises:

a. Performing subscriber accounting to enable billing said subscriber for said video on demand request by said transaction server.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for delivering video on demand programs to a plurality of requesters comprising:

a. a software controlled transaction server ~~responsively~~ directly coupled to said plurality of requesters which manages an interface between said apparatus and said plurality of requesters;

b. a storage facility directly coupled to said software controlled transaction server which contains a plurality of video programs;

c. a temporary memory directly coupled to said software controlled transaction server wherein said software controlled transaction server spools a requested one of said plurality of video programs requested by one of said plurality of requesters from said storage facility into said temporary memory;

d. a plurality of video servers directly coupled to said temporary memory and said software controlled transaction server from which said software controlled transaction server assigns a particular one of said plurality of video servers wherein said particular one of said plurality of video servers streams said requested one of said plurality of video programs from said

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temporary memory to said one of said plurality of requesters.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 21 further comprises a plurality of video program sources ~~responsively~~ <u>directly</u> coupled to said software controlled transaction server which stores said plurality of video programs from said plurality of video program sources in said storage facility.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 22 further comprising a transmission network located intermediate said plurality of video servers and said plurality of requesters whereby said particular one of said plurality of video servers streams said requested one of said plurality of video servers to said one of said plurality of requesters.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said one of said plurality of requesters further comprises a subscriber box.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 24 further comprising a request generated by said one of said plurality of requesters transferred to said software controlled transaction server requesting the delivery of a pizza.